



National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada

AC901

P3

No. 0002

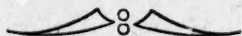
P***

5

Tory vs. Liberal Legislation!

In Favor of

THE WORKERS OF CANADA.



A COMPARISON.

The result of the present political campaign will involve very grave consequences in so far as your direct welfare and interests as a part of the general community are concerned. Just *think calmly* for a moment. Forget for a brief time the pathetic appeals of the usual legion of Tory "heelers" and unscrupulous schemers now buzzing into your ears—you know them well. That they may better entangle you in their nets, traps for the capture of innocent dupes who are to be used in furthering the personal ends of their captors they cunningly work on your race or your religious antipathies and prejudices so as to sway your votes in favor of the Tory party—or rather the Tupper Family Party. But where did you find these self-same scheming vampires after each election in the past? Did you ever find one of them honestly or vigorously agitating and fighting solely in your interest and in your behalf? *Never*, on the contrary having "pulled the wool over your eyes."

They lined their own pockets or secured situations for themselves, relations, and friends generally "on the Hill"—you were conveniently *forgotten* until another election came on and the fools were wanted again. *They want you now*, and so you find them at their old tactics, and for a like purpose, though the methods may vary here and there. Many and treacherous will be the arguments used to make you believe, if possible, that the Tory Party is friend and saviour, that its so-called protective policy has made you rich, but don't neglect to "size up" the motives of your temper. In nine out of ten cases a moment's thought will convince you that man has "an axe to grind" and wants to use you for the purpose.

FACTS ARE STUBBORN THINGS.

Forgetting for a time the *mountain of promises*, which were no sooner made and their purpose served than they were forgotten. Take a look at the record of the Tory government in Canada for the last twenty-four years, a record discreditable from every standpoint, and see what has been done by that government in the way of helping or protecting the direct interests of those of Canada's people who have to work for wages as a means of living. It can be put in a nutshell. In 1872 the late Sir John A. Macdonald, being leader of the government at the instance and on the suggestion of organized labor, as well as making political party capital introduced in parliament and had enacted into law the Trade Unions Act, which in effect declared that thenceforward trade unions of working people would not

be illegal or unlawful combinations on compliance with conditions set forth in the Act. It was not all that labor sought at that time, but it was all that Sir John Macdonald would concede, notwithstanding this Sir John made the most of this act, on many a platform, and with much success during the remainder of his life. A Liberal Government having meantime supplanted that of Sir John, Hon. A. McKenzie being premier, Hon. E. Blake being Minister of Justice, in 1876, at the instance and on the urgent request of organized labor: and recognizing the necessity and justice of reasons assigned, conceded what Sir John refused, and introduced an act which provided that.

"A prosecution shall not be maintainable against a person for conspiracy to do or cause any act to be done for the purpose of a trade combination, unless an offence indictable by statute or is punishable under the provisions of the Act. Nor shall any person who is convicted upon any such prosecution be liable to any greater punishment than is provided by such statute or by the said Act hereby amended, for the act of which he may have been convicted as aforesaid."

In other words this amendment of the law by the Hon. E. Blake prevented a prejudiced or other judge inflicting any greater penalty for an offence committed by a trade unionist than what the statute allowed.

But this protection given by a liberal government to the workingmen of Canada was not of the liking of the strongest supporters of the Tory government—the "lights" of the "Red Parlor" and so, Sir John A., being again in power when the Dominion statutes were revised in 1886 the Tory government, through its revising commission, without voice, notice, or let of Parliament, had Hon. Mr. Blake's protection as quoted and as instanced above, taken away by substituting therefor a paragraph of a totally different meaning, which appears in the Revised Statutes as follows:—

"No prosecution shall be maintainable against any person for conspiracy to do any act, or cause any act to be done for the purpose of a trade combination unless such act is punishable by statute."

That is to say if by any chance a trade unionist or other workingman commits an act punishable under that statute the presiding judge may punish him in such penalty as he pleases, no matter how severe the punishment may be. And experience has exemplified that the average judge will sentence "a labor agitator" convicted of the slightest offence against law to the heaviest penalty, while for a like conviction an ordinary offender would be merely discharged with a caution, or, at most, with a nominal penalty.

But notwithstanding what had just been done to make the criminal law as harsh as possible, the powers behind the Tory government felt grieved at the legal status and quasi-protection conceded in the Trade Unions Act of 1872. They were not satisfied, and so in 1889 Hon. N. Clark Wallace introduced and had enacted a law for the prevention and suppression of combinations formed in restraint of trade. This law provides, among other offences that every person who conspires, combines, agrees or arranges with any other person to unduly limit the facilities for manufacturing or production of any article, to unduly prevent or lessen competition in the production manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, transportation or supply of any such article, etc., "is guilty of a misdemeanor and liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars and not less than two hundred dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, and if a corporation is liable on conviction to a penalty of ten thousand dollars and not less than one thousand dollars."

Somebody may say "oh, the Anti-Combines Act does not affect any of the rights guaranteed workingmen by the Trade Unions Act of 1872. On the contrary the Anti-Combines Act was aimed at killing the Act of 1872. And it does kill it for its last clause is as follows:

"6. The foregoing provisions of this Act shall be construed as if section twenty-two of the Trade Unions Act had not been enacted."

In 1885 the government introduced and passed into law an Act to restrict and regulate Chinese immigration into Canada. The principal provisions of this measure are, one providing that no vessel shall bring into Canada at any one time more than one Chinese immigrant for every fifty tons of its tonnage, and the other clause provides that any such Chinese immigrant shall pay to the Dominion government a tax of fifty dollars.

In 1876, it will be readily remembered that the same Tory government tasked the working people—they appointed a royal labor commission (save the mark). It was to enquire into and report upon the legislative necessities, the condition of the labor market, etc., and

to suggest such remedies as the said commission—the government's own creation from amongst its own friends and followers and which cost the country many thousands of dollars—made a report in course of time and made certain recommendations thereon in the interest and for the protection of our working people and that is all that has been done as to these recommendations from that day until this. It was a clear case of all "fuss and feathers except in so far as it exemplified the insincerity of the government, while providing fat berths for a while for a few friends.

Again in 1890 another delusive sop was thrown out to mistify the persistent though easily duped working people, who were being bled to death by the rascally fiscal policy—the so called "National Police"—by the self same Tory government passing an Act "to provide for the collection and publication of labor statistics." That is six years ago; has anyone yet seen a printed copy of these statistics? Everybody knows however that the government did not forget or neglect to make a place under this act, for a particular and suberviant friend, and to appoint him as "chief clerk and chief statistical officer" at the handsome salary of \$2,000 a year. He gets the meat and the working people get the bare bone.

Four Acts of Parliament, ostensibly in the interest of the working people during the long period of twenty-four years and then even two of these four have been rendered valueless by the very party which enacted them in the first instance.

In spite of this niggardly record for this long series of years the Tory party to day even, barefacedly and without a blush of shame or sorrow, proclaim themselves friends of the workmen! Truly theirs is the friendship of brazen hypocrisy—the friendship of the wolf for the lamb. Tory and Tupperite will say, no doubt "comparisons are odious." That we should not think of such thing just now, that rant and unworthy prejudice must have full sway. But let cool-headed and sensible workmen compare a little nevertheless, so that they may the better see why and for whom they cast their votes on the 23rd instant.

A Liberal Government under the distinguished leadership of Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat, has been in power in Ontario for some twenty three years past. What has been the policy of that Government towards the working people of this Province during all these years? Did it keep its promises to that important section of the whole people? The undeniable and incontrovertible answer must be, and is that the policy of Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat and his Government have always been of the most progressive character not only as respected legislation generally, but more especially as regarded the interests and welfare of those alleged to make a living through the sweat of their brow. This has been illustrated in a striking manner very recently when he sent an officer to gather together and pay the claims for wages long overdue the men who worked on the Central Counties Railway in the Eastern part of Ontario in our immediate neighborhood. Yes Sir Oliver Mowat and his Government has scrupulously fulfilled every promise to organized labor. Not only that but both he and the several members of his cabinet, have, from time to time and session after session, respectively introduced and has enacted into law some fifty or more excellent laws which their experience, begotten of a watchful regard for the requirements and needs of working people, indicated the need of, without waiting always to be formally asked to do so, either, nor has he or his government sought to be lionized for the good work done in this direction, he and they recognize their plain duty and performed it accordingly. as a matter of fact it is not asserting too much to say that in the matter of legislation beneficial to working people the Province of Ontario bears most favorable comparison with the most advanced countries of the world to-day.

Within the period in which in has been in power, this Liberal Government in Ontario as already stated, has had enacted a large number of laws in the immediate interest of the working people of the Province. Space will not permit more than a passing mention of the scope and intent of some of the most important of these laws.

For instance, these laws provide for an deal with arguments between employers and employees as to participation in profits, for facilitating the settlements of disputes between employers and workmen, making the government responsible for the wages on these of public works carried on under contract. Exempting certain wages from seizure by garnishee, providing for liens for wages of mechanics and laborers, protecting the goods of lodgers or boarders from seizure for rent due by the householder, exempting wages from taxation for any purpose, securing to wives and children the benefits of insurance on the lives of husbands and parents, providing for the safety of railway employees and the public, establishing free public libraries, providing easy and cheap recovery of wages by process of law, relieving workmen from contracts entered into abroad to do work in Ontario if misled or misinformed by those who hired them, securing compensation to workmen who are injured in specified cases, exempting goods and chattels of workingpeople for distress by

landlord, providing that wearing apparel and certain household goods and necessities are free from seizure and sale under all circumstances, granting manhood suffrage at elections, advanced factory legislation, as to the working hours and sanitary conditions of shops and regulating the employment therein of women and children, for the establishment of technical schools, as to the hours for work and sanitary conditions of bake shops, giving police magistrates the same power as Division court judges, prohibiting the employment of children under a certain age in shops, factories and mines, for settling trade disputes by official Arbitrators and many other laws in like direction.

Is it not fair to assume that course of a Liberal Government in power here, and Sir Cliver in the cabinet at that—(not Taillon the late premier of Quebec one of labor's bitterest foes remember, but who will be in Tupper's cabinet if he is returned to power). Would follow the example set by the government of Ontario, that honest and capable men would be at the head of departments, that there would be clean government generally, and the interest of these working people in particular would receive that fair consideration at all times which their great importance justifies and calls for?

One of the best ways within your reach to attain this condition of public affairs is to cast your vote on the 23rd instant in favor of *Hutchison* and *Belcourt*. A change of government here cannot make the labor market of this city or Canada any worse than it is, while such a change may, and very likely would, tend to the improvement of the present depressed condition of the working people all over the country—More work and consequently better wages to enable workingmen to support their families is of more consequence to you than whether it was Christopher Columbus or Sir Charles Tupper discovered America. It is said Sir Charles built Niagara Falls, but will he or his nominees get your vote even if this be true? Think coolly and carefully as to what you are to do before voting on the 23rd and if you do *Hutchison* and *Belcourt* the liberal candidates will get you votes.

Ottawa June 20th.

WORKINGMAN.

